

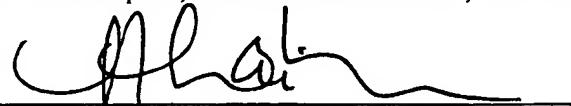


RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 3700

PATENT

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

January 13, 2006


Ayesha J. Shaikh

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/040,923

Confirmation No. : 3782

Applicants : Stephen Martone and Katsumi Oneda

Filed : January 4, 2002

Attorney Docket No.: 501060.01

Art Unit : 3736

Customer No. : 27,076

Examiner : Jonathan M. Foreman

Title : ENDOSCOPE SHEATH ASSEMBLIES HAVING AN ATTACHED BIOPSY
SAMPLING DEVICE

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

Applicants herewith petition the Commissioner for Patents under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) for a 3-month extension of time for filing the response to the Office Action dated July 13, 2005, from October 13, 2005, to January 13, 2006. Submitted herewith is a check in the amount of \$760, which includes \$510 to cover the cost of the extension. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 50-1266. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper. C.K To Entd.

AF 2/6/06